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## Building and Construction Trades Department

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June 12, 2002

The Honorable John Dingell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

The Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, applauds your effort, along with Chairman Tauzin, to craft a pipeline safety bill. The Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee product, an amended HR. 3609, adequately addresses the major concerns of the Building Trades and its fourteen affiliates.

Throughout the debate on a pipeline safety bill, the Building Trades have called for legislation with meaningful whistleblower protections, mandatory periodic inspections of pipelines (with priority going to those lines that are the greatest threat to life and property), a national standard to certify and train workers on pipeline operations and maintenance, emergency preparedness plans and an awareness of the need for safety and security for pipeline workers. We are encouraged that the product reported out of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee is, to date, the best bipartisan legislative product we have seen in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. As currently written, it will go a long way toward protecting our members as they work on pipelines.

The Building Trades encourage the Energy and Commerce Committee to report out the Subcommittee product, HR. 3609, and oppose any harmful amendments.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Edward C. Sullivan  
President

cc: Energy and Commerce Committee Members  
Building and Construction Trades Department General Presidents